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# CANADA AND HOW IT IS GOVERNED



CANADA

Canada has grown from the status of a Crown colony to that of a sovereign nation. Sovereignty was established and recognized by the Statute of Westminster in 1931, called "Canada's great charter of sovereignty."

Canada adopts her own laws, negotiates and ratifies her own treaties, appoints her own ambassadors and diplomatic representatives, and the Supreme Court of Canada is the tribunal of last resort for Canadians. Amendments to the Constitution in regard to a few specific matters are made by the Parliament of the United Kingdom but such amendments are enacted only at Canada's request.

Canada is also a kingdom in close association with other parts of the Commonwealth. As in most other countries of the Commonwealth, the Crown is not only a symbol of authority but it is also a reality and a constitutional fact of the greatest importance. The Royal Title for Canada is: "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith".

Canada is also a democracy living under a federal system of government consisting of a central parliament and ten provincial legislatures operating by virtue of the British North America Act of 1867 and also by virtue of many other acts, charters and precedents that have been inherited from the mother country.

The Parliament at Ottawa is composed of three essential parts: the Crown, represented by the Governor-General, the Senate, and the House of Commons. Legislation is enacted after passing both the Senate, and the House of Commons, and after receiving the Royal Assent.

Parliament has jurisdiction and control in certain matters of national character such as defence, trade and commerce, criminal law, banking, transportation, and external affairs.

Provincial Legislatures have authority in such matters as property and civil rights, education, health, municipal, and local affairs.



ONTARIO



MANITOBA



SASKATCHEWAN



ALBERTA



BRITISH COLUMBIA



QUEBEC



NEW BRUNSWICK



NOVA SCOTIA



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



NEWFOUNDLAND

The Provincial shields shown above are not the complete coats-of-arms.



## *The* CROWN

Canada is a Kingdom, and the Queen, the titular head of the country, is an essential part of Parliament and of provincial legislatures. The Queen's personal representative is the Governor-General who is appointed, upon the recommendation of the Canadian Prime Minister, for a term of five years.

The Governor-General, on the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament and exercises any of the powers and authorities of the Crown in respect of Canada. A bill becomes law when it has been passed by both Houses of Parliament and when Royal Assent has been given by the Governor-General. Royal Assent may not be withheld from any measure passed by the Senate and the House of Commons.

Lieutenant-Governors appointed by the Governor-General-in-Council, represent the Queen in all provincial legislatures.

The Crown has acquired great significance as the symbol of Commonwealth unity. The Queen constitutes that symbol for all Commonwealth countries whether such countries be realms (kingdoms) or republics. Canadians in particular recognize the Queen as an essential part of legislative authority and as a fountain of honour and justice.



The Right Hon. Vincent Massey, C.H.,  
Governor-General of Canada





## *The* SENATE

The members of the Senate are appointed for life by summons of the Governor-General, in the Queen's name, under the great seal of Canada.

The Constitution provides that each senator must be at least thirty years of age, a born or naturalized British subject or Canadian citizen and be possessed of property, real or personal, to the value of four thousand dollars within the province for which he is appointed.

It is also provided that each of the great sections of Canada shall be represented equally by 24 members of the Senate. The sections so represented include the great Agricultural West; Industrialized Ontario; the Province of Quebec which has special interests, institutions and laws; the Maritimes, regarded

as having problems unfamiliar to Western Canada. To these four groups of 24 have been added six senators from Newfoundland, granted when the new province entered Confederation in 1949. The total number of senators is 102.

The composition, powers and privileges of the Senate are enacted and defined by the British North America Act. Sir John A. Macdonald, first Prime Minister of Canada, once described the Senate or Upper House as the "controlling and regulating branch of Parliament, a sober second thought in legislation".

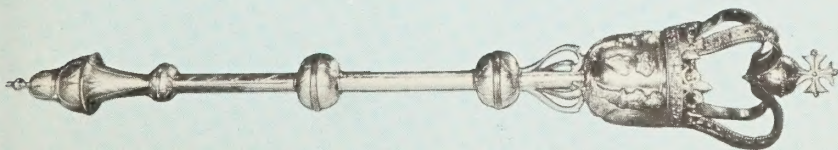
All legislation originating in the House of Commons must pass the Senate before it can become law.

The Speaker of the Senate is appointed by the Governor-General (which means by the Government) and his appointment is temporary, usually for the life of one Parliament—5 years or less.



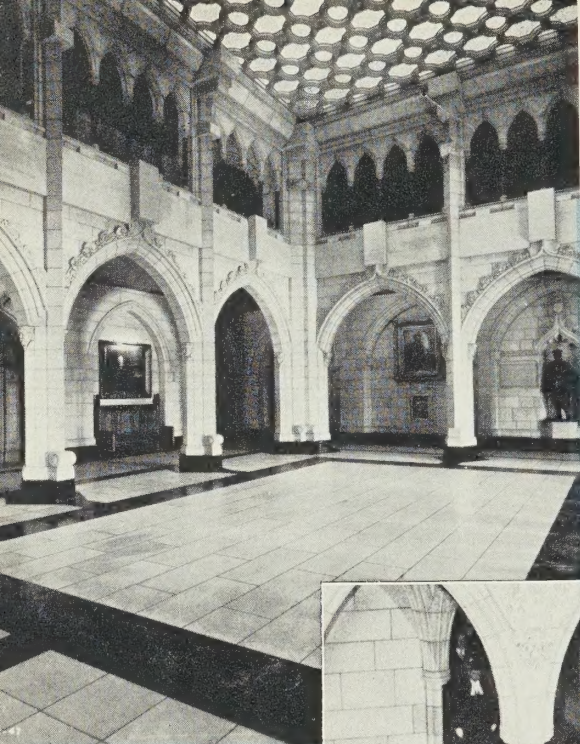
Above—The Foyer of the Senate Chamber

Below—The Mace of the Senate





# The



Left—In the Foyer of the House of Commons may be seen portraits of former Prime Ministers.

In the ceiling skylight are scenes depicting the activities of the various departments of the Government.

Right—At the opening of Parliament the members of the House of Commons are called to the Bar of the Senate to hear the Speech from the Throne read by His Excellency, the Governor-General. The procession is led by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Commons.





# HOUSE of COMMONS

According to the constitution, the House of Commons originally was to consist of 181 members of whom 82 were to be elected from Ontario, 65 from Quebec, 19 from Nova Scotia and 15 from New Brunswick.

In future years, readjustments were to be made after each decennial census, taking note of variations in provincial populations and also of new provinces that might become part of the federation.

As a result, following the census of 1951, the election of 1953 provides the following representation; 85 for Ontario, 75 for Quebec, 12 for Nova Scotia, 10 for New Brunswick, 14 for Manitoba, 22 for British Columbia, 4 for Prince Edward Island, 17 for Saskatchewan, 17 for Alberta, 7 for Newfoundland, one for the Yukon Territory and one for the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories, thus making a total of 265 members.

The members of the House of Commons have to be elected by the people. Each House of Commons elected may continue in office for five years from the day of the return of the writs of election and no longer. However, if the government so decides, it may be dissolved sooner by the Governor-General.

If at any time, the government should lose the support of a majority in the House, it is obliged either to resign or having obtained a dissolution, to call another election.

The Mace of the House of Commons





According to the Canada Elections Act, any British subject, twenty-one years of age or older, is a qualified elector, and may be a candidate at a Federal election. However, persons disqualified by the courts for illegal practices, government contractors, members of a legislature, persons in the employ of the government, judges and certain other public officers are not eligible to become candidates.

#### The House of Commons Chamber





## The Speaker's Chair of The House of Commons

Members are elected by electoral district and the vote is taken by secret ballot.

The government of the day, that is — the members of the Cabinet, are all, or practically all members of the House of Commons where the government must command a majority by virtue of the doctrine of responsible government. In other words, the government can remain in power only so long as it possesses the confidence of the majority of the House.

Among other things, the Constitution provides that Appropriation and Tax Bills must originate in the House of Commons; that there shall be a session of the Parliament of Canada once at least in every year, so that twelve months shall not intervene between the last sitting of the Parliament in one session and its first sitting in the next session.

The part that the members of the House of Commons have to play in the scheme of Parliamentary life is of great importance. They are truly the representatives, not only of their constituents whom they serve directly, but each one of them represents all the people of Canada.





# THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

The Parliament Buildings contain the Senate Chamber, the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Library, the Speakers' Chambers, accommodation for the Officials of both Houses, and the private offices of Members of the Senate and Members of the House of Commons. In addition, there are the Reading Rooms, several Committee Rooms, the Parliamentary Restaurant and the Cafeteria.

The original Parliament Buildings, with the exception of the Library, were destroyed by fire in 1916. The present Buildings were begun immediately and completed in 1921 at a cost, including furnishings, of \$12,000,000. They contain 6 floors and 490 rooms and its physical dimensions are 470 feet long and 245 feet wide.

## THE SENATE

The Senate Chamber, sometimes called the Red Chamber, is a magnificent sight in its setting of crimson and gold. The brass railing just inside the main entrance is called the Bar of the Senate. The large chair under the canopy at the north end is the Throne Chair used by the Governor-General. The ceiling is of glass sections outlined in heavy gold leaf, each section showing the emblem of some country whose people help compose the Canadian population.

The stone in the walls is Indiana Limestone and Tyndall Limestone and the wood along the walls is oak, the desks being black walnut.

The galleries will accommodate 350 persons and the Chamber is 85 feet long by 41 feet wide. Each of the bronze chandeliers weighs two tons.

The paintings on the walls are from a collection presented to Canada by Lord Beaverbrook after the First Great War.

## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The House of Commons Chamber, sometimes called the Green Chamber, is a nobly proportioned room of Tyndall Limestone and Canadian Oak. The painted ceiling of the Chamber is of Irish Linen, while gold leaf cornices and cork plaster figures add great interest.

Deep galleries at each end and narrow ones at the sides will accommodate 566 persons. The floor dimensions of the Chamber are 72' by 54'. The Chamber is air-conditioned and contains a modern sound reinforcement system so that both members and listeners have complete freedom of hearing.

The great chair at the north end is the Speaker's Chair and is an exact replica of the Speaker's Chair that was destroyed in the bombing of the Houses of Parliament in England in 1941. Incorporated in the Chair are portions of old oak from the roof of Westminster Hall (1397) and from Nelson's Flagship Victory.





## CANADA'S NATIONAL CAPITAL

The beautiful national capital city of Ottawa is located at the meeting-place of three rivers, the Ottawa, the Rideau and the Gatineau.

The Parliament Buildings are magnificently set on a promontory overlooking the Ottawa River in a park of 35 acres known as Parliament Hill.

Government departments and institutions are located in over 150 buildings throughout the city of Ottawa. Offices and branches of federal departments are also found in other communities across Canada.

Ottawa was selected as the national capital by Queen Victoria in 1857 after a long contest for the honor had taken place between Kingston, Montreal, Toronto and Quebec City.

# CONFEDERATION HALL

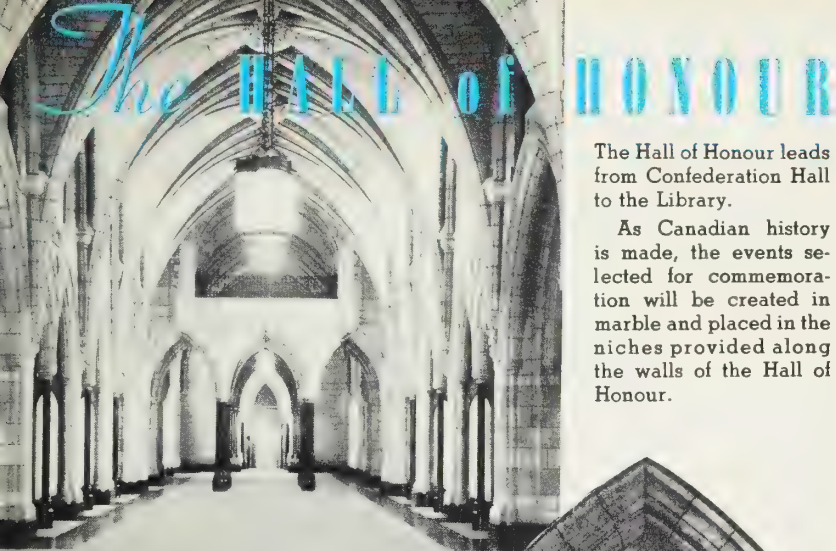


At left—The outside entrance to the Parliament Buildings, the base of the Peace Tower features the coats-of-arms of the Provinces of Canada.

Below—Confederation Hall is the inside entrance to the Parliament Buildings. Here soaring pillars and arches form a noble architectural conception of enduring beauty. Around the arches are stone carvings representing many aspects of federal and provincial life.







# The HALL of HONOUR

The Hall of Honour leads from Confederation Hall to the Library.

As Canadian history is made, the events selected for commemoration will be created in marble and placed in the niches provided along the walls of the Hall of Honour.

On the west wall of the Hall of Honour is the Canadian Nurses' Memorial commemorating the Nurses from 1639 to 1918. The sculptor was George W. Hill of Hamilton, Ontario.

In the centre of the group of figures stands the draped figure of Humanity. She holds in her hand the Sceptre, the emblem of healing and with the other indicates the heroic courage and self-sacrificing loyalty of nurses down through the ages.





# *The* PEACE TOWER

The great central Tower of the Parliament Buildings is called the Peace Tower because it commemorates for all time the great contribution to world peace made by the sacrifices of over 66,650 Canadians who gave their lives in the great struggle of 1914-1918. The Peace Tower was dedicated by the Prince of Wales at the close of the First Great War in 1919.

The Peace Tower contains national memorials, the Memorial Chamber with the Book of Remembrance and the great Carillon of Bells.

The magnificent Tower stands 291 feet high while the clock in the Tower is 15 feet 9 inches in diameter. It is operated by an electrically controlled mechanism which ties it to the master clock at the Dominion Observatory.

The bronze 35 foot flag pole with its emblem flying is a visible tribute to the great national event or, at half-mast, to the death of national figures and leading statesmen. The flag flies during the day when the House of Commons is in session. At night, a red light at the top of the pole burns until the House rises.

The soaring Gothic lines of the Peace Tower make it the focal point for all eyes as visitors approach the Parliament Buildings.



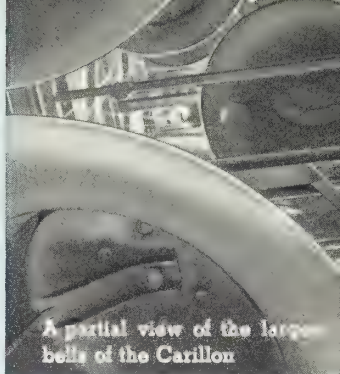
# The Carillon of Bells

One of the outstanding features of the Peace Tower is the Carillon of 53 bells, which is heard on great national occasions over the radio and through sound films. It was dedicated on July 1st, 1927, at the celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Confederation.

The largest bell weighing 22,400 lbs., has a diameter of 100 inches and is tuned to E. The weight of the clapper is 504 lbs. The smallest bell weighing 12 lbs. is 7 inches in diameter, and is tuned to A. The total weight of the Bells is 60 tons.

The organ-type keyboard of 4½ chromatic octaves, from which the Carillonneur plays, is located between the upper and lower bell frames in a completely enclosed cabin. Musical expression is gained by the force used in striking the keys, there being no electric assistance of any kind. The Westminster Quarters chime from the Tower every fifteen minutes, electrically controlled by the clock mechanism.

Weekly concerts are given on this majestic instrument, and during the summer months thousands gather on Parliament Hill to enjoy this unique musical experience.

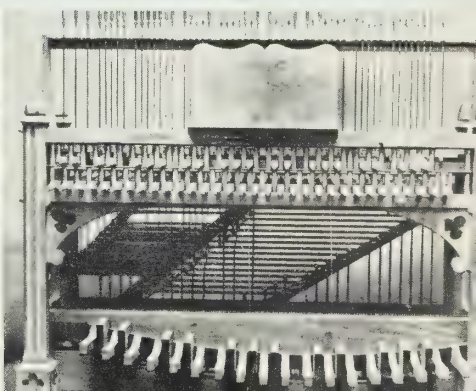


A partial view of the large bells of the Carillon

Left—A view of a few of the smaller bells of the Carillon



Right—The organ type keyboard



The Memorial Chamber was officially opened on November 11th, 1928, by the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, then Prime Minister.

Here, embodied in stone, is the spirit of the Canadian people. Here Canadians may pay tribute to the service, sacrifice and achievements of their countrymen in the First Great War.





# *The* MEMORIAL CHAMBER

The walls and ceiling are of Chateau Gaillard stone presented by the people of France, who also gave the marble for the columns. The floor is of stone from the areas in which Canadians fought and their principal battles are named on inlaid plates of brass; YPRES — MOUNT SORREL — SOMME — VIMY RIDGE — HILL 70 — PASSCHENDAELE — AMIENS — ARRAS — CAMBRAI — VALENCIENNES — MONS.

The black marble of the border and the altar steps is the gift of the people of Belgium.

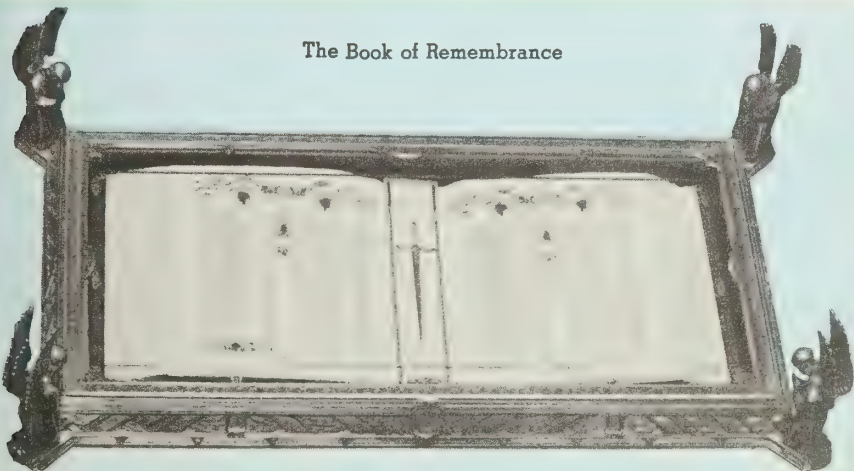
The altar, ornamented with the Royal Arms, the Arms of Canada and of the provinces is the gift of Great Britain. Around the altar is carved an inscription: MY MARKS AND SCARS I CARRY WITH ME TO BE A WITNESS FOR ME THAT I HAVE FOUGHT HIS BATTLES WHO NOW WILL BE MY REWARDER, SO HE PASSED OVER, AND ALL THE TRUMPETS SOUNDED FOR HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE (Bunyan's Pilgrims Progress).

Enshrined in this Altar is the Book of Remembrance in which are recorded the names of 66,651 Canadians who made the supreme sacrifice in the First Great War. The pages of the Book are turned according to a calendar so that each page is exposed on the same day of the same month each year.

The Book of Remembrance weighs 68 pounds, is ten inches thick at the back and five inches at the fore edge. Its six hundred and one pages are of extra thick opaque calf-skin vellum, approximately 15 inches by 18½ inches.

The story of the Canadians in the First Great War is inscribed on sixteen carved marble panels set in the walls. Each panel represents some aspect of Canada's response to the call of the free nations during the First Great War. In the mural carving, scenes and devices are grouped to illustrate all the phases of that epic.

The Book of Remembrance



# THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY







The stately pure Gothic structure of the Library of Parliament was happily saved from destruction in 1916 but was again threatened by fire and contents seriously damaged by water in 1952.

The Library is approximately 140 feet in diameter and 132 feet from the floor to the top of the cupola. Styled like the Reading Room in the British Museum it contains 500,000 volumes including fiction and non-fiction, documents and newspapers in book form, some dating before 1800. There is in the Library the first issue of the Quebec Gazette dated January 21st, 1764.

Besides the books that are in sight, thousands of volumes are stored in small rooms situated between the interior and exterior walls and in vaults in the basement.

The wood around the side is hand-carved Canadian white pine, no two carvings being alike. The flooring of oak, cherry and walnut was water damaged in the fire of 1916 but remains much as it was in 1876.

The marble statue of Queen Victoria is by Marshall Wood, English sculptor.

The Parliamentary Library is not a public library but was planned primarily for the use of the members and officials of Parliament. However, the public can use the books as reference sources but without borrowing privileges.

# The MONUMENTS on PARLIAMENT HILL

## QUEEN VICTORIA

reigned from 1837 to 1901

## Sir John A. Macdonald

first Prime Minister of United Canada  
1867 to 1873, also from 1878 to 1891

## Sir Wilfrid Laurier

Prime Minister of Canada from  
1896 to 1911

## Thomas D'Arcy McGee

orator and one of the Fathers of  
Confederation

## Sir George Etienne Cartier

one of the Fathers of Confederation

## Alexander Mackenzie

Prime Minister of Canada from  
1873 to 1878

## George Brown

journalist and statesman

## Robert Baldwin and

## Sir Louis H. Lafontaine

formed Baldwin-Lafontaine Canadian  
Government of 1842-43 and 1848-1851



QUEEN VICTORIA



Sir Wilfrid Laurier



Sir John A. Macdonald





The Fathers of Confederation

In 1867 took place the first Confederation of Provinces when Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia agreed to join themselves into a federal organization.

Manitoba was admitted into Confederation on July 15, 1870; British Columbia on July 20th, 1871; Prince Edward Island on July 1st, 1873; Alberta and Saskatchewan on September 1st, 1905; Newfoundland on April 1st, 1949.

The original Parliament Buildings pictured below were completed in 1866 but were destroyed by fire, except the Library, on February 3rd, 1916.

In design and function the original buildings, having five stories, were essentially similar to the present Parliament Buildings which were completed in 1921.





Model of proposed Plan for central Ottawa



### THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLAN

Government participation in the improvement and beautification of the Capital began in 1899 with the establishment of the Ottawa Improvement Commission, now the Federal District Commission.

In 1946 a long-range plan for the suitable development of the Capital was begun by the Commission working in cooperation with the municipalities. This Plan provides for a beautiful and well-designed City, set in a 900 square mile district.

### THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, popularly known as "The Mounties", are to be seen on Parliament Hill. The familiar scarlet uniform is ceremonial dress.



### THE PARLIAMENTARY PROTECTIVE STAFF

Inside the Parliament Buildings you will be welcomed and guided by Constables of the Parliamentary Protective Staff.



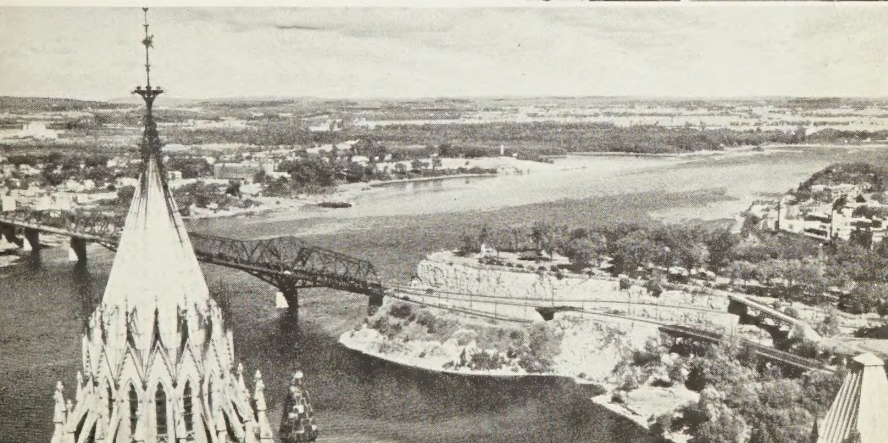


## VIEWS FROM THE PEACE TOWER

Above—The Ottawa River and Chaudière Falls.

Right—A group of visitors on a balcony of The Peace Tower.

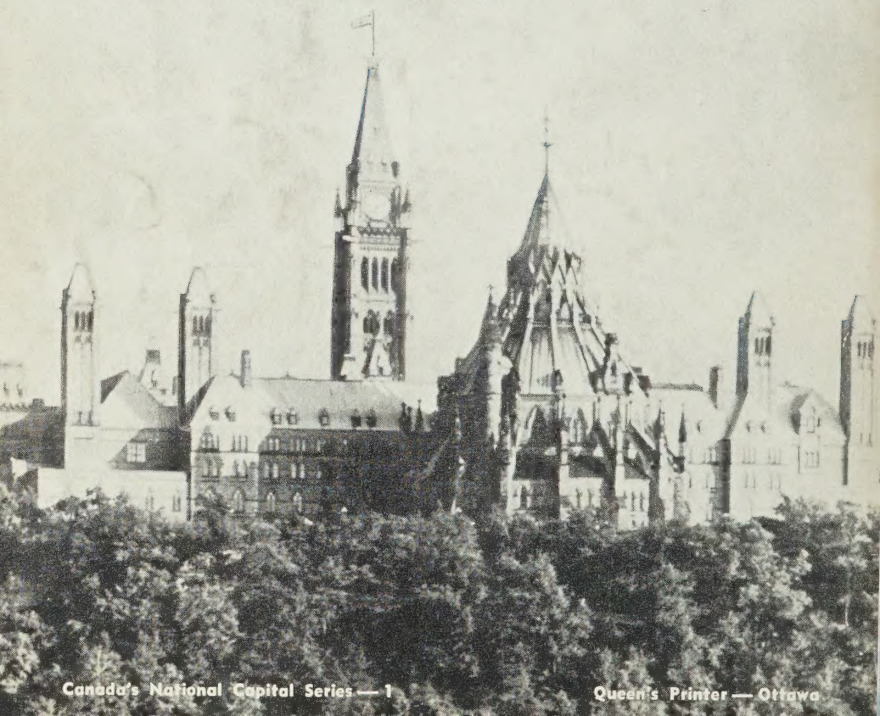
Below—Looking north to the city of Hull, Quebec, the Gatineau Hills and the environs of Gatineau Park.



# VISITING HOURS

The Parliament Buildings are open every day except Christmas and New Year's Days, from 9 a.m. until 5.30 p.m.

Visitors are welcome and will be met in Confederation Hall by Constables of the Parliamentary Protective Staff who will act as guides during the tour of the Parliament Buildings.









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